



MAC OS X SPECIAL EDITION !!!

Mac OS X is Here!



As promised, Apple released Mac OS X on March 24. This is Apple's all new operating system built from the ground up on Unix and made over to provide Macintosh ease-of-use. Precursor Systems is proud to have been a software seed site for Mac OS X since last October running various post-beta copies of the operating system before it was finalized. In this issue of Precursor PDFNews we would like to give you an overview of Mac OS X and discuss its implementation.

Introduction to OS X

Mac OS X is Apple's first truly modern operating system which achieves a combination of high performance, efficiency and stability that could not be achieved under the original Macintosh operating system (through 9.1). In addition, Mac OS X ditches the QuickDraw screen language used up until now in favour of built-in Display PostScript technology called Quartz. It includes system level font management. When mature, it will be a digital publishing dream come true.

Advantages of OS X

Mac OS X can run your existing programs right now. However, it does so by utilizing "Classic" Mac OS 9.1 (which must be installed prior to the Mac OS X installation). This means that until Quark, Adobe and Microsoft update their software you will not get the full power and stability of Mac OS X. For example, when Quark crashes under Mac OS 9.1 or Classic –when running under OS X– it will affect all running applications in 9.1/Classic and you should restart the computer to maintain document integrity even in non-related programs. However, when Quark becomes available for Mac OS X (no ETA yet hinted at by Quark Inc.) then if Quark were to crash it would have no effect on any other OS X programs.

Implementing OS X

Because OS is now an optional install and because the major applications and utilities for pre-press and graphic design have not yet been made OS X-native, Precursor Systems will not be providing official support for this operating system until Apple begins pre-loading it on computers this summer. Mac OS X is destined to be a graphic artists bet's friend but there is little reason to use it on a production machine just now since you will be effectively running in Classic Mac OS 9.1 until such time as your software is made in a special Mac OS X version.

Mac OS X Resources

Apple' Mac OS X home page
<http://www.apple.com/macosx/>

Getting Mac OS X

If you are eager to try it out, Mac OS X is available now from Precursor Systems for \$199 CDN. (At his time we do not recommend installing it on production machines).

Mac OS X Demonstrations

Precursor Systems will be providing demonstrations along with question and answer sessions for Mac OS X both at our offices and on-site for certain customers. Check your email in upcoming days for more details or call us at (204) 793-1880.



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Mac OS X Software from Apple

Concurrent with the release of Mac OS X, Apple made available for download some software that didn't make the cut for the CD.

iMovie 2.1 for Mac OS X

<http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n12076>

iTunes 1.1 for Mac OS X

<http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n12077>

AppleWorks 6.1 (Preview) for Mac OS X

<http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n12075>

Mail Import Scripts for Mac OS X

<http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n12038>

Apple Startup Disk 9.2.1

Startup Disk control panel 9.2.1 repairs problems that could occur when switching startup systems between Mac OS 9.1 and Mac OS X using earlier versions of the control panel.

<http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n12078>

Apple Firmware Updates

Apple has released firmware updates for the G4 Cube, Power Macintosh G4s with AGP Graphics, Slot-loading iMacs, and FireWire equipped iBooks and PowerBooks. CAUTION: There are numerous reports that this firmware has stricter RAM tolerances which can have the effect of ignoring non-Apple RAM chips which are not up to standard. Please check with Precursor Systems to determine whether you should apply this update.

iBook Firmware Update 4.1.7

<http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n12079>

PowerBook Firmware Update 4.1.8

<http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n12080>

iMac Firmware Update 4.1.7

<http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n12081>

G4 Firmware Update 4.1.7

<http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n12082>

G4 Cube Firmware Update 4.1.7

<http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n12083>

Apple GeForce MX 2

This driver update is for Apple systems that ship with the optional GeForce graphics card. The update improves performance and compatibility.

<http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n12073>



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Apple Disk Burner 1.0.1

This update provides bug fixes and compatibility for third party CD Burners to Apple's new easy to use CD creation utility.

<http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n12018>

Apple Final Cut Pro 2

Apple has quietly released version 2 of Final Cut Pro, its professional level film editor. The new version offers increased performance, added features and integration with QuickTime. Owners of version 1.x can upgrade for \$379 CDN at Apple's online AppleStore for Canada.

<http://store.apple.com/1-800-MY-APPLE/WebObjects/canadastore>

GraphicConverter 4.0.5

Lemke software continues to improve its graphical "swiss army knife".

<http://www.graphicconverter.net/files/gcus.sit>

FlightCheck 3.9r8

Another minor revision to Markzware's FlightCheck fixes minor bugs.

<http://www.markzware.com/download/flightcheckupd.html>

Aladdin Stuffit 6.0.1

Aladdin Systems has improved its Stuffit line of products to fix various problems in the original lease of version 6.0.

Stuffit Deluxe 6 is available from Precursor Systems for \$129.

Stuffit Deluxe 6.0.1

<http://www.aladdinsys.com/deluxe/updates.html>

Stuffit Expander 6.0.1

http://www.aladdinsys.com/expander/mac_login.html

Stuffit DropStuff 6.0.1

http://www.aladdinsys.com/dropstuff/mac_login.html

Stuffit DropZip 6.0.1

http://www.aladdinsys.com/dropzip/mac_login.html



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